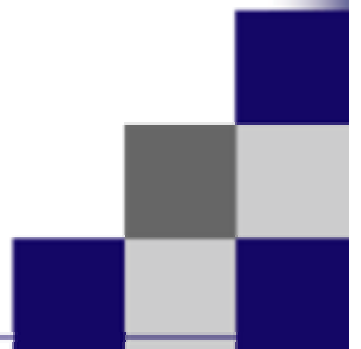




Appendix 6:

STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP'S EVALUATION COMMENTS



SWG Process Evaluation Comments:

- The process was difficult because of other “outside” the process goings-on (i.e., East Orange environmental process, East Orange utility study); SWG members wanted to know what was happening in those processes and how they would impact the work of the SWG
- “This is not the process we signed up for”: lost focus from nine determinations to abstract issues such as quality of life and vision; SWG members not interested in one another’s needs/issues; do not feel they have the right nor is it prudent to be involved in one another’s areas; “we should stick to our own interests”; that is why they did not comment on one another’s work;
- SWG shows how government fails us everyday. Process is a microcosm of the way government fails to do what is needed and often creates another layer of government rather than addressing the need and moving on
- Group did not (choose to) discuss difficult issues
- Developed relationships as a result of process; positive networking opportunities; became better acquainted with people already knew
- Opened avenues of communication between IRWD and SCWD part of the reopened dialogue is due to MSR process - more opportunity now than before. Hope to see that happen with the City of Orange as well.
- Disappointed in the process overall:
 - MSR should not be about grand visioning but deciding spheres of influence – It’s not LAFCO’s function to be in the grand visioning business
 - Didn’t solve difficult issues
 - Issues for Santiago were not addressed
 - Did not agree on purpose of the process
 - Wanted to influence decision about service provision but the decision will end up to be a LAFCO political decision not necessarily in the best interest of the agencies or public
 - Talked about fluff and vision
 - Process not flexible enough to go where the participants wanted it to go; LAFCO wanted a vision plan while members wanted to solve specific issues and topics directly related to the nine determinations; Felt precluded from giving information pertinent to process, not enough latitude
- Process:
 - Included too many members
 - Member interests too diverse to achieve focus and problem solving
 - Good to have a forum but did the SWG address the real issues at hand?
- Members came into the process with different expectations – need agreement up front to set common expectations (questionnaire prior to first meeting might help set clear expectations)
- First thoroughly clarify the assignment then determine who needs to be in the group to address the assignment:
 - What do you want the group to do

- Who is relevant to do the assignment
- Should have concentrated on the nine determinations rather than 20-year vision plan and quality of life.

QUESTION TO THE GROUP FOR FEEDBACK: Is there a need for stakeholder process or should LAFCO just do its thing? Group did not answer the question

- Process was not stakeholder driven, but LAFCO driven; using the terminology “stakeholder driven” for a process designed and controlled by LAFCO set up false expectations
- Assignment to brainstorm groups was not what was needed by the water agencies
- Process was not flexible enough to accommodate members needs and interests
- Process was revealing, who the agencies are and what their interests are; chance for the public as the end user to be involved
- How the focus area is defined should be carefully thought out and justified; clear boundaries and rationale for the boundaries; how impacts to those outside the boundaries will be factored into the process
- Large area of contention was caused when SCWD was discussed but the canyon areas were excluded
- Should be a cost/benefit analysis of the process; agencies spent a lot of time and effort to attend the meetings, what was the net benefit?
- LAFCO should have anticipated the need to have electeds on the SWG, (i.e., in the case of small districts with few/or no staff)
- Having a stakeholder process is valuable only if the participants have input on the issues to be addressed PRIOR to convening the process